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SUBJECT Anderson: Plot in the Dominican Republic

JACK ANDERSON: Ten years ago I broke the story that the United States had secretly intervened in the internal politics of Chile. The White House, I reported, had tried to block Chile's President Allende from coming to power.

Well, the story became a major scandal. Now the Reagan Administration may be getting involved in a similar plot in the Dominican Republic. Already American arms are being rushed there.

Ostensibly, these are intended to make sure that the May 16th election goes smoothly. But I've learned that the real purpose may be to prevent the Dominicans from holding a free election.

Let me explain. The Dominican army's chief of staff, General Manuel Lashapel, is determined that the favorite candidate never become President. The likely winner is Jorge Blanco. General Lashapel claims Blanco is a communist. So the General has prevailed upon the Pentagon to expedite the weapons that the Dominican army has ordered from the United States.

Lashapel's people freely admit that the General will use his American arms to seize power if he thinks Blanco has a chance of winning the election next month.

The arms shipments include 1200 M-16 automatic rifles. That's more than enough fire power to make a crucial difference in a country that's only half the size of Indiana.

My sources say the Pentagon brass have bought General Lashapel's story of a threatened communist takeover. But un-

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fortunately all the General cites to back his story is some inflammatory wall graffiti. My sources in the Pentagon -- in the State Department tell me that Blanco isn't communist at all, he's a Social Democrat whose slightly left of center. One expert described him as the Willy Brandt of the Caribbean.

Anyway, the United States is supposed to promote free elections, not prevent them.